

Amendments to the claims

1. (Currently amended): A method of treating or preventing cell death in a warm-blooded animal, comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically effective amount of a peptide that is 3 to 20 amino acids in length, said peptide comprising the amino acid sequence Val-Asp-Val such that cell death is ameliorated.

2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

3. (Currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein said peptide ~~has~~ consists of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

4. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said peptide is a cyclic peptide.

5. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said peptide contains one or more D amino acids.

6. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said peptide is further conjugated to one or more polypeptides.

7. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said peptide is conjugated to a non-peptide moiety.

8. (Original): The method of claim 7, wherein said non-peptide moiety is a sugar.

9. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said peptide further comprises an end group cap.

10. (Original): The method of claim 9, wherein said end group cap is an ester or an amide.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said cell death is associated with ~~a~~ a neurodegenerative disorder, or cardiovascular disease, ~~an immune disease, a neoplastic disorder, an inflammatory disorder, or a viral~~ disease.

13-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended): The method of claim 12 ~~18~~, wherein said cardiovascular disease is a myocardial infarction, atherosclerosis, congestive heart disease, myocardial reperfusion injury, heart attack, stroke, an acute coronary syndrome, heart failure, or hypertensive cardiovascular disease.

20. (Currently amended): The method of claim 12 ~~18~~, wherein said neurodegenerative disorder is Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, cerebellar degeneration, or amyolateral sclerosis.

21-23. (Cancelled)